Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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THE 1995 RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST

Working paper submitted by Bahrain*

The 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the States Parties of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear-Weapons adopted a package consisting of three decisions and a resolution on the Middle East.

The members of the League of Arab States that are parties to the NPT have submitted a working paper on the resolution on the Middle East during the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference held in New York, April 1997. The Arab States aim by presenting this new paper to reiterate their position pertaining to ways and means for ensuring the full implementation of the provisions of this resolution.

The adoption of a resolution Cosponsored by the three depository States on the Middle East by consensus, and the fact that it was the only resolution adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference concerning a specific region is a clear expression by the States Parties of their concern over the seriousness of the situation in the Middle East resulting from the existence of an unsafeguarded Israeli nuclear facilities in the region and ambiguous nuclear policies endangering regional and international peace and security.

At the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation

*On behalf of the Arab States.

of Nuclear Weapons, and in order to achieve the universality of the Treaty, there is an urgent need to assess the progress achieved in the Middle East with a view to adopting recommendations by the Preparatory Committee pertaining to the full implementation of the provisions of the said resolution.

Since May 1995, some specific positive developments have taken place and should be taken into consideration, these are:

1- All States of the Middle East have become parties to the Treaty except Israel; the only State in the region that is not yet a party to the Treaty and has not declared its intention to do so;

2- The continued adoption by consensus, for the eighteenth year in a row, of a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly calling for the Establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the region of the Middle East.

The overwhelming support for the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its fifty second session entitled "The Risk of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East" (Resolution 52/41) calling upon Israel, the only state in the Middle East that is not yet party to the Treaty and has not declared its intention to do so, to accede to the Treaty without further delay, and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear-weapons and to renounce possession of nuclear-weapons, and to place all its nuclear facilities under full-scope IAEA safeguards. This support reflects the increased concern of the international community resulting from the fact that Israel continues to defy repeated calls to accede to the NPT.

The readiness demonstrated by Arab Sates to take practical steps towards the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East Zone Free of Weapons of Mass Destruction: nuclear, chemical and biological, and to refrain from taking any measures that preclude the achievement of this objective in accordance with operative paragraph 5 of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East should not go unnoticed. On the other hand, Israel continues to prevent and avoid any discussion on this issue in all relevant fora.

Despite the fact that all Arab States are complying with the provisions of the Treaty as well as the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, it remains evident that their accession to the Treaty did not provide them with the necessary security requirements in the wake of the

continuing Israeli nuclear threat and its defiance to those repeated calls by refusing to accede to the NPT and to place all its nuclear facilities under the IAEA full scope safeguards.

It is therefore imperative that the Preparatory Committee address this important issue with a view to correcting the existing imbalance between the compliance by all Arab States with their obligations in accordance with the Treaty and the resolution on the Middle East on the one hand, against the risk imposed by Israel's unsafeguarded nuclear facilities to the whole region of the Middle East and its ambiguous nuclear policies. The second session of the preparatory committee should include in its report a solemn declaration to the 2000 Review Conference urging Israel to accede to the NPT without delay and to place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards.

All States Parties to the Treaty, and in particular the nuclear-weapon-States, have to shoulder their responsibilities, extend their cooperation, and exert their utmost efforts to achieve the full implementation of the said resolution. The role of the three depository States in fulfilling their primary responsibilities as cosponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East is crucial in implementing faithfully and achieving the goals of the resolution on the Middle East. They are requested to indicate at every preparatory Committee and the 2000 Review Conference what measures they have taken to ensure the full implementation of the resolution and the realization of its objectives .

The nuclear-weapon-Sates, in conformity with their obligations under Article 1 of the Treaty, are requested to undertake not to transfer nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly to Israel, and further undertake not in any way to assist, encourage, or induce Israel to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, or control over such weapons or explosive devices under any circumstances whatsoever.

All NPT States Parties, in conformity with the seventh preambular paragraph and Article 4 of the Treaty, hereby declare their commitment

to exclusively prohibit the transfer of all nuclear related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices, and the extension of know-how or any kind of assistance in the nuclear, scientific or technological fields to Israel, as long as it remains a non-party to the Treaty and has not placed all its nuclear facilities under full-scope IAEA safeguards.

The Arab States reaffirm once again, their determination to exert their utmost efforts with a view to ensuring the early establishment in the Middle East of a Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons as an important step towards the realization of a Zone Free of all Weapons of Mass Destruction. All States Parties to the Treaty, and in particular the nuclear-weapon-States, have to extend their cooperation to achieve the full implementation of the resolution on the Middle East. The second session of the preparatory committee should include in its report a solemn declaration to the 2000 Review Conference urging Israel to accede to the NPT without delay and to place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards.